

- Revenue at food services and drinking places rises 0.7% in May.
- Lumber output in the province inches 1.8% higher in May.
- B.C. freshwater anglers spent an average of 14.6 days fishing in 2010.

The Economy

- Sales by British Columbia's food services and drinking places industry inched ahead (+0.7% *seasonally adjusted*) in May. Compared to the same month in 2011, receipts have increased 0.8%, driven mainly by higher revenues generated by the province's limited-service restaurants (+3.7%), which includes most fast-food eateries, coffee shops, and other establishments where patrons order and pay for food before eating.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- Lumber output at British Columbia's sawmills rose 1.8% in May compared to the same month a year earlier. On a year-to-date basis, lumber production in the province climbed 4.5%. Sawmills in B.C. shipped 2.4 million cubic metres of softwood and hardwood lumber during the month.

At the national level, lumber production was up 5.7% between May 2011 and May 2012. Higher levels of output from mills in Alberta (+13.8%) and B.C. were responsible for much of the increase in total Canadian lumber production in May.

Data Source: SC Cat. no. 35-003-X

- Coal output in British Columbia fell 11.8% between May 2011 and May 2012 marking a third consecutive monthly decline in production. Nationally, coal production fell 3.4% in May, with B.C. and Alberta (-6.3%) posting lower output. Together, B.C. and Alberta account for roughly 85% of Canadian coal production.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- On a year-over-year basis, the number of new motor vehicles sold in British Columbia shot up 28.8% (based on unadjusted data) in May. A surge in sales of both passenger cars (+33.8%) and trucks (+25.1%) contributed to the overall increase, with both North American (+28.5%) and overseas (+29.6%) auto-makers sharing in the overall rise in total sales.

Nationally, sales of new motor vehicles climbed 18.6% in May with double-digit increases reported in every province. Higher sales in Alberta (+22.6%) and Ontario (+18.9%) contributed the most to growth at the national level.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Transportation

- Net sales of gasoline in British Columbia slipped 0.5% to 4.54 million litres in 2011.¹ Since 1993—the first year for which data are available—net sales of gasoline in B.C. have risen 17.3%. With respect to diesel oil, net sales jumped 20.8% in 2011 and have more than doubled (+124.5%) since 1993. In 2011, British Columbia accounted for one-ninth (11%) of gasoline and one-eighth (12%) of diesel oil sold in Canada in 2011.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

¹ Net sales refer to the sale of gasoline and diesel on which taxes were remitted at road-use rates. These net figures represent, with minor exceptions, the amount of taxable fuel actually consumed on public roads in Canada.

Did you know...

In 2010, British Columbians caught 7.6 million freshwater and 2.6 million saltwater fish. An average of 32 freshwater and 16 saltwater fish per angler.

Data Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Recreational Fishing in B.C.

- In 2010, there were 236,682 freshwater and 166,824 tidal active angling licences held by residents of British Columbia. Based on the number of licences issued, B.C.'s participation rate in freshwater fishing was just 5.2% and the share of the population issued a tidal licence was just 3.7%.

Licensed residents of B.C. spent a total of 3.46 million days fishing in lakes and rivers in 2010, an average of 14.6 days per angler.²

The majority of freshwater (81%) and tidal (80%) angling licences were held by males. The average age was 51 years for freshwater anglers and 53 years for those licensed to fish in tidal waters. Women who held either a freshwater (48 years) or tidal (50 years) angling licence were slightly younger on average.

Data Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Parental Leave

- In 2010/2011, an estimated nine-tenths (90%) of Canadian children aged 1 to 3 years had working mothers who took some form of parental leave (paid and unpaid) from their job following their birth or adoption.³ Leave for those mothers lasted an average of 44 weeks, after which two-thirds (67%) returned to work.

The decision to take leave and the length of such leave were affected by a limited number of factors. Mothers who were self-employed typically took significantly shorter leave (29 weeks) than those who were not self-employed (48 weeks). Mothers reporting having post-partum depression were also typically on leave longer (50 weeks) than other mothers (43 weeks). Length of leave was not

affected by the child's gender or whether the child was the mother's first-born. Other factors such as, the mother's age, education level, income, and (among those not self-employed) whether the mother's job was in the public or private sector also had little bearing on the length of leave.

Over one-quarter (26%) of Canadian children had fathers who took some form of leave, lasting on average 2.4 weeks. Almost all (95%) of the men who took leave returned to the workforce once their leave had concluded.

Data Source: SC Cat. no. 11-008

The Nation

- Economic activity (GDP) in Canada inched ahead 0.1% (seasonally adjusted) in May, a deceleration from the 0.3% advance registered in the previous month. Growth in the retail (+0.7%) and finance, insurance & real estate (+0.2%) sectors was the chief reason for a 0.1% increase in GDP in the service sector, making up for weakness in transportation & warehousing (-0.5%) and arts, entertainment & recreation (-1.7%).

Expansion in the country's goods sector stalled in May as a notable increase by the mining and oil & gas extraction industry (+0.6%) was offset by slowdowns by both construction (-0.2%) and manufacturing (-0.5%).

Data Source: SC Cat. no. 15-001-X

- Prices received by Canadian manufacturers rose 0.4% in June compared to the same month a year earlier. The index was pushed higher due in large part to an increase in prices for motor vehicles (+4.9%), wood products (+7.0%), and meat, fish and dairy products (+2.7%). Closer to home, producer prices for B.C. softwood lumber climbed 12.2% between June 2010 and June 2011.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

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² Comparable data for tidal water license holders was not available.

³ These data exclude Quebec as that province maintains its own parental leave insurance program (QPIP) separate from the leave benefits available in other provinces and territories via the Canadian Employment Insurance Program (EI).



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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)		Apr 1/2012	% change on one year ago
BC		4,606.5	1.0
Canada		34,755.6	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 8)		2010	% change on one year ago
(BC - at market prices)			
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)		203,147	5.9
GDP (\$ 2002 millions)		167,140	3.0
GDP (\$ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)		36,899	1.4
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 2002 per Capita)		26,166	2.2
TRADE (\$ millions, seasonally adjusted)			% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - May 2012		3,172	1.0
Merchandise Exports - May 2012		2,578	-5.8
Retail Sales - May 2012		5,159	0.2
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change on one year ago	12-month avg % change
(all items - Jun 2012)			
BC		1.5	1.8
Vancouver		1.7	1.9
Victoria		1.4	1.7
Canada		1.5	2.4
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		Jun 2012	% change on prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)			
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC		3.6	
Labour Force - BC		2,485.8	-0.7
Employed - BC		2,322.2	0.2
Unemployed - BC		163.6	-11.6
			May 2012
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)		6.6	7.4
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)		7.2	7.3
INTEREST RATES (percent)		Aug 01/2012	Aug 03/2011
Prime Business Rate		3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year		3.10	3.50
- 5 year		5.24	5.39
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE		Aug 01/2012	Aug 03/2011
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$ per US \$		0.9983	0.9559
(closing rate) US \$ per Cdn \$		1.0052	1.0389
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		Jun 2012	% change on one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)			
BC		850.70	1.3
Canada		863.37	3.5

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Solid Waste Generation Forecast

This report highlights three projection scenarios with varying degrees of measures taken to divert waste from British Columbia landfills. The report includes a summary of the methodology and the results of the forecast for each scenario from 2010 through 2025. Read this at:

<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/EnvironmentalStatistics/Analysis.aspx>

Census 2011 Fast Facts

The age-sex data from the 2011 Census have been released. For the first time, since reporting began, persons 65 years of age and older outnumbered 0 to 14 year-olds in BC. See more: <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/2011Census.aspx>

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New RSS Feeds From BC Stats

BC Stats has published several new RSS feeds: <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Help/RSSFeeds.aspx>

The 2011 National Household Survey

Release dates have been set as:

May 8, 2013

- Immigration; Citizenship; Place of birth; Language; Ethnic origin; Visible minorities; Religion; Aboriginal Peoples

June 26, 2013

- Labour; Education; Place of work; Commuting to work; Mobility and migration; Language of work

August 14, 2013

- Income; Earnings; Housing; Shelter costs

<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/index-eng.cfm>

Released this week by BC Stats

- Community Facts

Released next week

- Labour Force Statistics
- Economic Statistics Report
- Earning and Employment Trends
- Exports